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Appellants :	Emmanuelle C. Damay et al.	Docket No.:	20,320
Serial No.:	10/753,974	Group:	3761
Confirmation No:	6438	Examiner:	Hand, Melanie Jo
Filed:	January 7, 2004	Date:	September 18, 2008
For:	LOW PROFILE ABSORBENT PANTILINER		

Notice of Reinstatement of an Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.31 the Appellants hereby respectfully appeal Examiner Hand's **Final Rejection** of claims 1 - 20 and 22 mailed June 18, 2008.

Appellants note that a Notice of Appeal was previously filed in this application with an Appeal Brief which caused the Examiner to reopen prosecution of the application. A previous Notice of Appeal fee of \$500.00 (code 1401) fee designated in 37 C.F.R. 41.20(b)(1) for filing this Notice of Appeal was paid on September 11, 2007. The current fee is \$510.00. Therefore, please charge the increase in the Notice of Appeal fee of \$10.00 to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. Deposit account number 11-0875 and (2) any other prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. Deposit account number 11-0875.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMANUELLE C. DAMAY ET AL.

By: 

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Registration No.: 41,550

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Adjustment date: 09/19/2008 HMARZI1
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K-C Docket No.: 20,320
Serial No.: 10/753,974

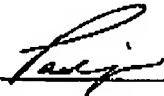
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I, Pauline Turner, hereby certify that on September 18, 2008 this Notice of Appeal is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300.

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Pauline Turner

Signature:



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Brief on Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.37 Appellants respectfully submit this Brief in support of their Appeal of the Examiner's **Final Rejection** of claims 1 - 20 and 22 which was mailed on June 18, 2008.

Filed concurrently herewith, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.31, is a Notice of Appeal. Thus, the time period for filing this Brief ends on November 18, 2008.

Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc., the assignee of record.

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other prior and pending appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings known to Appellant, the Appellant's legal representative, or assignee which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

Status of Claims

Claims 1 - 20 and 22 remain in the application with claims 1 - 20 and 22 being finally rejected. Claim 21 has been cancelled. The appealed claims include 1 - 20 and 22 and appear in the CLAIMS APPENDIX of this Brief.

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K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

Status of Amendments

No claim amendments were filed after receiving a final rejection of the pending claims.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

As claimed, the claims are directed to a disposable absorbent liner having a cover layer, a removable backing layer and a liquid impermeable baffle layer. As is set forth in independent claims 1, 2 and 3, the cover layer has a top surface and a bottom surface and the cover comprises a mixture of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers. The quantity of hydrophobic microfibers located at the top surface of the cover layer is larger than the quantity of hydrophilic microfibers located at the top surface, based on a total weight of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer. See page 3, line 31-28. In one embodiment of the present invention, the liner has a low profile and an absorbent capacity in the range of 2-10 grams, as set forth in claim 1. See page 4, lines 4-5 and page 7, lines 21-24. In a second embodiment of the present invention, the liner has a low profile and an Absorbent Intake Rate of less than about 30 seconds, as is set forth in claim 2. See page 4, lines 15-16 and page 7, lines 25-28. In a third embodiment of the present invention, set forth in claim 3, the liner has a low profile, an absorbent capacity in the range of 2-10 grams and an Absorbent Intake Rate of less than about 30 seconds.

Appellants have discovered that a pantiliner within the scope of the claims of the above-identified application provides a good balance of physical properties that allow the liner to have a low profile, while maintaining absorbency and flexibility. See page 4, lines 11-13. This provides a liner that will enable a user to wear the liner everyday between periods to help keep the user with a dry comfortable feeling.

Grounds of Rejection To Be Reviewed on Appeal

1. Whether claims 1 – 10 and 14-17 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Becker et al., U.S. Patent 4,657,538.
2. Whether claims 11-13 and 22 are unpatentable under U.S.C. § 103(a) over Becker et al., U.S. Patent 4,657,538.
3. Whether claims 18-20 are unpatentable under U.S.C. § 103(a) over Becker et al. U.S. Patent 4,657,538 in view of Fell, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0253894.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

Argument

1. **Claims 1 – 10, and 14-17 are patentable under both 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of Becker et al., U.S. Patent 4,657,538.**

In response to this rejection, Appellants point out that each of the independent claims (claims 1-3) require that the cover layer comprises both hydrophobic and hydrophilic fibers. The cover layer has a top surface and a lower surface. As is clearly set forth in the claims, **a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers and a quantity of hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface.** In addition, each of the independent claims requires that the quantity of hydrophobic microfibers located at the top surface is larger than the quantity of the hydrophilic microfibers. Stated another way, both hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers **must be present at the top surface** of cover layer and there must be **a larger quantity of hydrophobic microfibers than hydrophilic microfibers at the top surface.**

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner wrongly interprets that Appellants' claims. This interpretation of the claims constitutes a reversible error on the part of the Examiner. For the first time in the Final Rejection, the Examiner implies that a quantity of hydrophilic fibers includes zero hydrophilic fibers" at the top surface. More specifically, the Examiner states that "a quantity" can include zero. Appellants disagree with the Examiner interpretation.

The language of independent claims 1, 2 and 3 regarding the composition of the cover layer reads:

"the cover layer comprising a mixture of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers, wherein a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface and a quantity of hydrophobic microfibers located at the top surface is larger than a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers located at the top surface."

As is clear from this claim language, the cover layer comprises a mixture of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers. The phrase "a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface" clearly means that both hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers both located at the top surface of the cover. It is unclear how the term "a quantity" in this phrase could possibly be interpreted to mean that one or both of the hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophilic microfibers are not present at the top surface. If the term "a quantity of" is removed from the phrase, it is very clear that both the hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophilic microfibers must be present at the top surface. That is, stating "hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface" implies that a

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

quantity of both hydrophilic and hydrophobic microfibers is present at the top surface. Therefore, specifically stating that a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface has the exact same meaning as Implied claim language when the term "a quantity of" is not present in the claim. For this reason alone, the Examiner's interpretation of the claim language is clearly incorrect.

Appellants further point out that the Appellants' specification does not state that "a quantity of" includes zero. Generally, when the phrase "a quantity of" is used, for example, "John has a quantity of flour", it has the meaning that there is a positive amount, however small. The amount is unspecified but there is a positive amount. In the example sentence above, the meaning to the reader is John has flour, but the amount is unknown. John could have 1 ounce, 1 pound, 100 pounds or more or any other unspecified positive amount. A reader of this sentence would not think or glean from the sentence that John does not have any flour.

Appellants do not intend that there are no hydrophilic fibers at the top surface of the cover layer and would be willing to remove this phrase from the claims, if the Board agrees that the claims include no hydrophilic fibers at the top surface of the cover layer.

The Examiner then goes on to address the limitations of the claims by stating that Becker et al. teaches a cover layer prepared from a mixture of hydrophilic microfibers (wood pulp fibers) and hydrophobic microfibers (polyester/polyethylene conjugate fibers). Appellants generally agree with this statement as set forth above.

The Examiner then states that a quantity of hydrophobic fibers and hydrophilic fibers are present on the top surface of the cover and that the quantity of hydrophobic microfibers is greater than the quantity of hydrophilic microfibers. **Appellants completely disagree with this statement.** To support this statement, the Examiner cites Example 1. A careful review of Becker et al., and in particular Example 1 of Becker et al., reveals that Becker et al. does not teach having both hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers at the top surface of the cover. Actually, Becker et al. states that the cover has only hydrophobic fibers at the top surface. Becker clearly states in Example 1 that the cover layer is prepared from a mixture of the wood pulp fibers and conjugate fibers **sandwiched between two veneers of conjugate fibers**. Specifically, Example 1 of Becker states:

"The body facing side of the liner is provided with an outer cover constructed of a thermal bonded absorbent fabric comprising, overall, 24% by weight of wood pulp fibers and 76% by weight of conjugate fibers having a polyester core and a high density polyethylene sheath. The conjugate fibers have a staple length of 3.81 cms and a denier of 3.0. **The materials**

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

are so distributed as to provide a pulp/conjugate fiber mixture sandwiched between two veneers of conjugate fibers, the veneers having basis weights of 0.32 oz./yd². and 0.37 oz./yd²., the heavier veneer ultimately being employed on the body facing side of the product. The fabric is stabilized by passing hot air through the fibers and thereby melting the high density polyethylene which bonds the fibers together upon cooling. The overall fabric has a basis weight of 1.55 oz./yd²." (emphasis added).

As a result, the Appellants' claim limitation clearly requiring that the top surface of the cover layer have both hydrophobic and hydrophilic fibers is clearly not taught by Becker et al. Becker et al. teaches that the outer surfaces of the cover layer are made only from conjugate fibers, which are hydrophobic.

In addition, Becker et al. states in first paragraph of column 3, that the fabric, meaning the outer cover, has outer layers made from conjugate fibers with wood pulp and conjugate fibers sandwiched in between the outer layers. Therefore, the teachings of Becker et al. clearly directs one skilled in art not to have hydrophilic fibers on the surface of the cover layer, which is contrary to the Appellants' claims. As a result, none of the independent claims 1-3 are anticipated by Becker et al.

The Examiner, in the Final Rejection, dismisses these arguments stating that the Becker et al. example 1, with its two veneers of conjugate fibers, is a preferred embodiment and is not relied upon in the rejection. This statement is untrue. Appellants note that example 1 of Becker et al. is central to the Examiner's arguments in rejecting the claims. Without relying upon the teaching of example 1, with respect to the composition of the outer cover, the Examiner cannot establish within the teachings of Becker et al. the percentage of hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers in the outer cover of Becker et al. Therefore, the Examiner must take the entire teachings of Becker et al. example 1, as expressed in Example 1 and cannot ignore that the outer cover as described in example 1 is solely hydrophobic. It is very clear that the outer cover of Becker's example 1 has a top surface prepared from only hydrophobic fibers, which clearly teaches or directs one skilled in the art to have a solely hydrophobic outer surface on the cover.

The Examiner states the preferred embodiments cannot be considered as a teaching away from a broader disclosure of non-preferred embodiments. The Examiner then states that a reference may be relied upon for all that it would reasonably suggest to one skilled in the art, including non-preferred embodiments. The Examiner, however, never addresses what Becker et al reasonably teaches one skilled in the art.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

So the question is "What does Becker et al. reasonably teach"? Ignoring the discussion of the preferred embodiments and examples, Becker teaches that the outer cover may be prepared from conjugate fibers and absorbent fibers. The conjugate fibers are known in the art to be hydrophobic and the absorbent fibers are known in the art to be hydrophilic. There is no teaching of the percentage of fiber in the cover. There is no teaching that the outer surface of the cover has a higher quantity of hydrophobic fibers than hydrophilic fibers. To find teachings of both of these claim limitations, the Examiner goes to Example 1. As is stated above, Example 1 does NOT teach an outer cover that has an upper surface that having a mixture of both hydrophobic and hydrophilic fibers with the hydrophobic fibers being present in a larger quantity than the hydrophilic fibers at the top surface. The upper surface of the outer cover taught in Example 1 is prepared solely from hydrophobic fibers. Since the Examiner does rely upon example 1 of Becker, one skilled in the art would glean from Becker et al. that it is necessary to have an outer cover with a layer of hydrophobic fibers, and one skilled in the art would not be directed to have a cover layer without the veneer or to form an outer cover having a quantity of hydrophilic and hydrophobic microfibers on the outer surface of the cover.

The Examiner can only arrive at the claimed invention by selectively reading bits and pieces of the Becker et al., while ignoring the overall teachings of Becker et al. Becker therefore does not anticipate independent claims 1, 2 or 3, since Becker does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of these claims, with respect to the structure of the cover layer.

Regarding the Examiner's inherency rejection, Applicants point out that the absorbent liner claimed is different from the absorbent liner taught by Becker et al., i.e. not substantially identical, as is stated above. Therefore, it is unnecessary for the Applicants to address the inherency arguments made by the Examiner.

Applicants will also point out that the claimed invention is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, since Becker et al. teaches away from having both hydrophilic and hydrophobic microfibers at the top surface of the cover. In determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious. *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 713 F.2d 1530, 218 USPQ 871 (Fed. Cir. 1983). A prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). Given that Becker et al. does not teach or suggest having both hydrophilic and hydrophobic microfibers at the top surface of

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

the cover layer and actually teach having only hydrophobic microfibers on the top surface of the cover layer, Becker et al. cannot properly render the Appellants claims obvious, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Regarding the dependent claims 4-10 and 14-17, these claims depend directly or indirectly from the independent claims 1, 2 and/or 3, and thus include all of the limitations of claims 1, 2 or 3. Claims 4-10 and 14-17 are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by Becker et al. for the same reasons claims 1, 2 and/or 3 are not anticipated or rendered obvious, as is stated above.

Therefore, claims 1-10 and 14-17 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) by Becker et al. This rejection should be reversed.

2. Claims 11-13 and 22 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) the teachings of Becker et al., U.S. Patent 4,657,538.

In the statement of the rejection, the Examiner admits that the limitations of claims 11-13 and 22 are not taught by Becker et al. Claims 11-13 further define properties of the absorbent liner, in particular the density. Claims 11-13 depend on Independent claims 1, 2 and 3, thus include all of the limitations of claims 1, 2 or 3. As is stated above, Becker et al. teaches away from having both hydrophilic and hydrophobic microfibers at the top surface of the cover. Therefore, claims 11-13 are also not rendered obvious over the teachings of Becker et al. for this same reason.

Regarding claim 22, this claim requires that the hydrophilic microfibers make up greater than 65% and up to 80% of the total weight of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer. The remainder of the microfibers in the cover layer is the hydrophobic microfibers. Becker et al. only teaches that the cover layer has a mixture of 24% by weight hydrophilic microfibers and 76% by weight hydrophobic microfibers. No other weight ratio of the microfibers is given. Typically, as is well known in the art of sanitary napkins and pantliners, sanitary napkins and pantliners have generally hydrophobic cover layers or body side liners to prevent rewet of cover by fluid stored in the absorbent core on the cover layer. If the cover layer is rewetted by the fluid stored in the absorbent core, the user of the sanitary napkin or pantliner begins to feel wet, which is undesirable. This is one of the reasons that Becker et al. forms a laminate and the top surface is prepared from only hydrophobic fibers, although this is reason is not stated in Becker et al. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to use any percentage of hydrophilic fibers in the cover layer as suggested by the Examiner.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

In the statement of the rejection, the Examiner states that the claimed weight percentages apply everywhere in the cover layer except the top surface. Actually this statement is not true. The cover has an overall percentage of microfibers as claimed in claim 22. The top surface of the cover has a larger quantity of hydrophobic microfibers than a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers located at the top surface. As a result, away from the top surface, the actual percentage of hydrophilic microfibers would necessarily have to be greater than the percentage which is claimed. Stated another way, as claimed, the cover layer has fiber weight percentage gradient may have a z-direction gradient as is set forth on page 7, first paragraph of the Appellant's specification. It appears that the Examiner's statement of the rejection show that the Examiner may have again misinterpreted the claims; this time the limitations of claim 22.

On page 4 of the Final Rejection, the Examiner disagrees with the above statement, and continues to insist that the hydrophilic fiber and hydrophobic fiber percentages recited in claim 22 must be uniform below the top surface. This statement again shows the Examiner has misunderstood claim 22. Claim 22, which depends from independent claims 1, 2 and 3, states that the cover, as a whole, comprises greater than 65% and up to 80% of hydrophilic microfibers based on the of the total weight of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer. The top surface, however, has more hydrophobic microfibers than hydrophilic microfibers. This can be accomplished by creating a fiber gradient in the cover layer. Note Example 1 of the Applicants specification. The two nonwovens are entangled together, causing the fibers of one nonwoven to be intertwined in the fibers of the other nonwoven. Therefore, the Examiner interpretation of the claims, requiring below the top surface to be uniform with the percentages recited of claim 22 is clearly incorrect.

In addition, claim 22 depends on independent claims 1, 2 and 3, and thus include all of the limitations of claims 1, 2 or 3. As is stated above, Becker et al. teaches away from having both hydrophilic and hydrophobic microfibers at the top surface of the cover. Therefore, claim 22 is also not rendered obvious over the teachings of Becker et al for this additional reason.

3. Claims 18-20 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of Becker et al. U.S. Patent 4,657,538 and Fell, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0253894.

In the statement of the rejection, the Examiner states that Becker et al. does not teach the peak to valley depth claimed. To remedy this deficiency, the Examiner relies upon Fell to teach the claimed peak to valley depth.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

Appellants direct the Board of Appeals attention to paragraphs 63-65 of Fell, where a description of the bodyside liner is provided by Fell et al. This bodyside liner is the cover layer of the Fell absorbent article. What is taught here is that the bodyside liner may be prepared from natural or synthetic fibrous materials, including microfibers, or may be an apertured film. Fell et al. does not state whether the materials used to make the bodyside liner discussed in paragraph 63 are hydrophobic or hydrophilic; but materials such as polyolefins (e.g. polyethylene and polypropylene) are hydrophobic by nature. In fact, Fell implies that the bodyside liner is hydrophobic, since Fell teaches in paragraph 64 that the bodyside liner may be treated with a surfactant to make it hydrophilic. Alternatively, in paragraph 64, Fell et al. states that the bodyside liner may be prepared from a hydrophilic material. Appellants are unable to find any teaching in Fell which would suggest that the bodyside liner may be prepared from both hydrophilic and hydrophobic microfibers, which is required by the Appellants' claims, as the Examiner has stated. Therefore, Fell et al. does not teach or suggest having a cover layer on a pantiliner prepared from both hydrophilic and hydrophobic fibers.

To teach Appellants claimed peak to depth of claims 18-20, the Examiner relies upon paragraphs 203 and 204 of Fell. These paragraphs discuss the absorbent layer, not the cover as the Examiner has stated. One skilled in the art would not have looked to Fell, which teaches peaks and valleys in an absorbent layer, for motivation to provide peaks and valleys in a cover layer of an absorbent article. Therefore, the combination of Fell with Becker et al. fails to properly establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claims 18-20.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above it is Appellants' position that the Examiner's rejection of claims has been shown to be untenable and should be reversed by the Board.

Finally, it is noted that the Appellants paid the Appeal Brief fee with the filing of the previous Appeal Brief on September 11, 2007. Since the Examiner did not allow the application to go to Appeal, Appellants hereby request that previous Appeal Brief fee of \$500.00 be applied towards the current Appeal Brief fee of \$510.00 (fee code 1402) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.20(b)(2). Therefore, please charge any additional fee of \$10.00, to cover the current Appeal Brief fee for filing this Appeal Brief to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. Any additional prosecutorial fees which are due may also be charged to deposit account number 11-0875.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

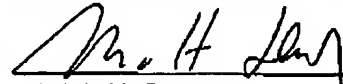
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Respectfully submitted,

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K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

Claims Appendix

The claims on appeal are:

1. A disposable absorbent liner for use in a crotch portion of underwear comprising:
 - a cover layer having a top surface and an opposite bottom surface, the cover layer comprising a mixture of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers, wherein a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface and a quantity of hydrophobic microfibers located at the top surface is larger than a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers located at the top surface, based on a total weight of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer;
 - a removable backing layer;
 - a liquid impermeable baffle layer having a top surface and an opposite bottom surface with the baffle layer being disposed between the cover layer and the backing layer; and,
 - wherein the absorbent liner has a low profile and an Absorbent Capacity in the range of about 2 grams to about 10 grams.
2. A disposable absorbent liner for use in a crotch portion of underwear comprising:
 - a cover layer having a top surface and an opposite bottom surface, the cover layer comprising a mixture of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers, wherein a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface and a quantity of hydrophobic microfibers located at the top surface is larger than a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers located at the top surface, based on a total weight of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer;
 - a removable backing layer;
 - a liquid impermeable baffle layer having a top surface and an opposite bottom surface with the baffle layer being disposed between the cover layer and the backing layer; and,
 - wherein the absorbent liner has a low profile and an Absorbent Intake Rate of less than about 30 seconds.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

3. A disposable absorbent liner for use in a crotch portion of underwear comprising:
a cover layer having a top surface and an opposite bottom surface, the cover layer comprising a mixture of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers, wherein a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers and hydrophobic microfibers are located at the top surface and a quantity of hydrophobic microfibers located at the top surface is larger than a quantity of hydrophilic microfibers located at the top surface, based on a total weight of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer;
a removable backing layer;
a liquid impermeable baffle layer having a top surface and an opposite bottom surface with the baffle layer being disposed between the cover layer and the backing layer; and,
wherein the absorbent liner has a low profile and an Absorbent Capacity in the range of about 2 grams to about 10 grams and an Absorbent Intake Rate of less than about 30 seconds.
4. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the top surface of the baffle layer is secured to the bottom surface of the cover.
5. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the backing layer is removably secured to the bottom surface of the baffle layer.
6. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the top surface of the baffle layer is secured to the bottom surface of the cover and the backing layer is removably secured to the bottom surface of the baffle layer.
7. The absorbent liner of claims 1 or 3 wherein the Absorbent Capacity is between about 3 grams and about 9 grams.
8. The absorbent liner of claim 7 wherein the Absorbent Capacity is between about 4 grams and about 8 grams.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

9. The absorbent liner of claims 2 or 3 wherein the Absorbent Intake Rate is less than about 20 seconds.
10. The absorbent liner of claim 9 wherein the Absorbent Intake Rate is less than about 10 seconds.
11. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the absorbent liner has Density greater than about 0.2 grams per cubic centimeter.
12. The absorbent liner of claim 11 wherein the absorbent liner has Density greater than about 0.225 grams per cubic centimeter.
13. The absorbent liner of claim 11 wherein the absorbent liner has Density greater than about 0.25 grams per cubic centimeter.
14. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the liner comprises a periphery and at least one fold line defining a central area and two side areas, wherein the liner may be adjusted in size by folding the liner along the fold line.
15. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein an underwear attaching material is provided on at least a portion of the bottom surface of the baffle layer.
16. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the cover layer is a nonwoven integral matrix of the mixture of microfibers.
17. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the microfibers at the top surface of the cover layer are formed into elongated MD peaks and valleys spaced apart from each other in the CD.
18. The absorbent liner of claim 17 wherein the Peak-to-Valley Depth of the elongated MD peaks and valleys is between about 0.1 mm and about 0.5 mm.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

19. The absorbent liner of claim 17 wherein the Peak-to-Peak Separation of the elongated MD peaks relative to the CD is between about 0.5 mm and about 3 mm.

20. The absorbent liner of claim 18 wherein the Peak-to-Peak Separation of the elongated MD peaks relative to the CD is between about 0.5 mm and about 3 mm.

21. (Canceled)

22. The absorbent liner of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the hydrophilic microfibers comprise greater than 65% and up to 80% of the microfibers based on a total weight of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer and the hydrophobic microfibers comprise the remainder of the mixture of microfibers in the cover layer.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

Evidence Appendix

There is no evidence relied upon to include in the appendix.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no related proceedings to include in the appendix.

K-C Docket No.: 20,320

Serial No.: 10/753,974

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